

South Grampian and Southeast Highlands

Including South and East Cairngorms National Park, Aberdeenshire and Angus Hills, Ben Vrackie, Ben Lawers, Loch Tay and Ochils

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Wednesday 20 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Thursday 21 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 20 Dec 2023 at 02:40 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: High for an unsettled weather pattern on lead up to Christmas. Very windy conditions will make walking difficult over higher ridges and summits with storm force winds on Thursday.

Headline for Wednesday 20 Dec 2023: Cloudy. Outbreaks of rain, early snow higher peaks. Windy and feeling bitterly cold.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 20 Dec 2023

Blizzards No Likelihood	Heavy persistent snow No Likelihood	Storm force winds No Likelihood
Gales High Likelihood	Severe chill effect High Likelihood	Poor visibility Medium Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	Heavy persistent rain No Likelihood	Strong sunlight No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
				FOG	FOG
Light snow	Light snow	Heavy Rain	Light rain	Fog	Fog
Precipitation probability					
20%	50%	30%	30%	20%	20%

Forecast for Wednesday 20 Dec 2023

Weather: Clear spells and a few wintry showers at first. Then a mostly cloudy day with more persistent rain extending across from the west during the morning. Snow initially above 800m, turning to rain at all levels. Some drier, brighter interludes in the afternoon, especially over the Aberdeenshire and Angus hills.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 20% in southwest of area but chances increasing 60% in northeast.

Low Cloud and visibility: Good visibility with occasional cloud cover above about 700 to 900m, Visibility will become poor in more persistent rain, especially over the Perthshire and Ochil hills with clouds lowering to 600m in places.

Forecast for Wednesday 20 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)				Wind Direction (blowing from)		
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1100	42/48 W	35/41 W	39/48 W	42/52 W	49/61 W	53/67 W	57/73 W
900	29/36 W	25/31 W	26/34 W	29/39 W	35/46 W	39/52 W	42/58 W
600	20/31 W	17/27 W	17/30 W	19/35 W	23/40 W	28/48 W	30/53 W
300	9/21 W	10/21 SW	8/20 W	12/29 W	14/33 W	14/33 W	21/45 W
Glen	9/21 W	7/18 W	7/18 W	12/27 W	13/30 W	18/37 SW	19/40 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1100	-4/-14	-2/-12	0/-8	1/-7	2/-7	2/-7	2/-8
900	-2/-10	-1/-8	1/-6	3/-4	4/-3	4/-4	4/-4
600	1/-6	1/-5	3/-2	4/-1	5/0	6/-0	5/-1
300	3/-1	4/-0	4/1	7/3	8/4	8/5	8/4
Glen	3/-0	4/1	5/2	8/4	9/6	9/6	9/5
Freezing Level*	500m	700m	1300m	1400m	1600m	1500m	1500m

*Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View

Feeling bitterly cold with very strong, gusty winds making walking very difficult.

Forecast for Thursday 21 Dec 2023

Weather: A very windy and cold day with sunny spells and blustery showers. The showers most frequent in north of area and turning increasingly to snow above about 500m.

Maximum wind: Severe gale force west or northwest winds reaching storm force on the tops. Average speeds of 50mph with gusts 80 to 90mph.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 50%

Low Cloud and visibility: Occasionally good visibility with occasional cloud cover above 700 to 800m. Marked reductions to poor visibility as showers pass by, especially over eastern Cairngorms and Aberdeenshire hills with clouds briefly lower down the hills.

Temperature: **Glens:** Plus 7 Celsius.
At 800m: Plus 4 Celsius falling to Minus 2 Celsius.
Freezing level: 1100m falling to 600m.